

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04479 271347Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EB-08 /084 W
-----046036 271931Z /43

R 262215Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBAUIY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8865
INFO AMEMBASSY GUALJMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4479

ZCHO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CS
SUBJECT: GOCR CAPTURES SANDINISTA GROUP AND ARMS CACHE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. COSTA RICAN CIVIL GUARD SURPRISED
AND CAPTURED FOUR ALLEGED MEMBERS OF NICARAGUAN SANDINISTA
LIBERATION FRONT IN HOUSE IN CIUDAD QUESADA (65 KILOMETERS
NORTHWEST OF SAN JOSE, 60 KILOMETERS FROM NICARAGUAN
BORDER) SEPT. 25. SUSPECTS, THREE NICARAGUAN AND ONE
COSTA RICAN, WERE TAKEN WITHOUT INCIDENT AND TRANSPORTED
TO SAN JOSE FOR INTERROGATION. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT
BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY, ARMS, (ABOUT TEN WEAPONS) LARGE
QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION, GRENADES, WALKIE-TALKIES, AND FSLN PROPO-
GANDA WERE ALSO TAKEN. MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT CR AUTHORITIES
HAD BEEN ON TRAIL OF GROUP FOR A MONTH, AND THAT SUSPECTS
WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO
NICARAGUA.

2. CAPTURED WERE 29 YEAR OLD COSTA RICAN MANUEL MORA SALAS, (CHIEF
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 04479 271347Z POSS DUPE

OF LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY SECURITY COMMISSION AND SON OF MANUEL
MORA VALVERDE, VETERAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF IN COSTA RICA), AND
NICARAGUANS KATRINA RIVAS, 20; EDUARDO BERHEIM, 28; AND GUILLERMO
TEJADA, 28. TWO OTHERS ESCAPED, IN SEPARATE VEHICLES.
COUNTRY-WIDE ROADBLOCKS SEPT. 24 AND 25 FAILED TO TURN
THEM UP.

3. MINISTER CHARPENTIER SPECULATED THAT ARMS AND AMMUNITION WERE OBTAINED IN LOCAL BLACK MARKET OR FROM ABROAD. HE NOTED THAT THE MOVEMENT UNCOVERED WAS STRICTLY AGAINST NICARAGUA, AND EMPHASIZED THAT COSTA RICA "WILL NOT ALLOW ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS A BASE FOR SANDINISTA OPERATIONS AGAINST SOMOZA, OR AGAINST ANY OTHER GROUP." CHARPENTIER SAID THAT COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES KNOW THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF SANDINISTAS IN COSTA RICA, AND THAT STRONG SURVEILLANCE OVER THEM IS MAINTAINED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THERE ARE TWO INTERESTING ASPECTS TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. THE FIRST IS THAT THE SON OF COSTA RICA'S MOST FAMOUS COMMUNIST LEADER IS MIXED UP WITH SANDINISTAS. THE SECOND IS THAT AT LEAST SOME LOCAL SANDINISTAS HAVE BROKEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO BE INACTIVE IN RETURN FOR DE FACTO POLITICAL ASYLUM. AN ACTIVE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE "SANDINISTAS" HAS LONG BEEN ASSUMED HERE BUT THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION THAT IT REALLY DOES EXIST. END CONFIDENTIAL.
WEISSMAN

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